Rs. 38,531 crores.

Exemption/withdrawal of taxes on FPIS

1121. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of Food Processing Industries and various industries' associations have demanded exemption or withdrawal of taxes applicable to processed foods and removal of contract farming for food processing industry, from the purview of the land ceiling law, to achieve quality and economy of scale;

(b) if so, whether this issue was discussed at a meeting of State Ministers for Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, what were the points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) to what extent Government have agreed to provide help and assistance to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) Representations regarding exemption/withdrawal of taxes applicable to food processing industries have been received from different associations. One of the constraints faced by Food Processing Industries is multiplicity of tax. The Industry Associations during interaction, including in meetings with State Ministers, have demanded fiscal concessions to processed foods for accelerated growth of this sector. Rationalisation of tax structure is a continuous process and Government have taken various steps in this regard. In the Budget of 2001-2002, Excise Duty on processed fruits & vegetables was brought down to zero from 16%.

Community Fruit Processing and Training Centres in H.P.

1122. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for setting up of community fruit processing and training centres in rural areas in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the places covered under this scheme; and